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THE CONFERENCE OF PRINCIPALS AT FLINT.

FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

IN pursuance of a call issued by the committee appointed by a meeting of the principals held at Indianapolis in August, 1871, during the session of the Convention of the Trustees, Principals, and Instructors of Deaf and Dumb Institutions in the country, the Conference of Principals of Institutions for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb met at the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, at Flint, Michigan, on the 14th and 15th ult. The following were present: Philip G. Gillett, LL. D., of the Illinois Institution, located at Jacksonville; Miss Harriet B. Rogers, of the Clarke Institution, Northampton, Mass.; Miss Sarah Fuller, of the Boston Day School, Boston, Mass.; Jonathan L. Noyes, M. A., of the Minnesota Institution, Fairbault, Minn.; W. J. Palmer, Ph. D., of the Ontario Institution, Belleville, Ont.; and Egbert L. Bangs, M. A., of the Michigan Institution. Mr. A. Graham Bell, of Brantford, Ont., was also present. There was a general feeling of disappointment that so few were present, though, were the principals of every institution in the United States present, there would have been but 38 all told. These institutions are employed in educating more than 4,000 pupils, and in this work 260 teachers are engaged. The total number of mutes in the United States and Territories, as given by the census of 1870, is 16,205, of which 7,562 are of school age, between five and 20. The only other Conference of Principals ever held was held in Washington four years ago, at which there were some 12 or 14 present.

THE FIRST SESSION

Was called to order at 3 o'clock on the first day, in the girl's sitting-room.

Two oblong tables had been placed side by side, so as to form one nearly square, around which the six principals, with writing materials in front of them, a stenographic reporter, and two newspaper reporters sat. Four mute teachers of the Asylum were present, and occupied seats a little apart from the conference table. They watched the proceedings with intense interest, directing their glances from speaker to speaker, as one after another took up the conversation, and conversed with marvelous rapidity. These thirteen persons comprised all who were present at the opening of the Conference. A temporary organization was effected by unanimously electing Philip Gillett, LL. D., of the Illinois Institution, president, and W. J. Palmer, of the Ontario Institution, secretary.

After the reading of a pile of letters from the principals who should have been there but were not, the Conference spent half an hour in proposing—

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION,

Which resulted in choosing the following: "The best manner to educate and retain teachers;" "Classification of pupils;" "Instruction of deaf-mutes in articulation;" "Moral and religious instruction of the deaf and dumb;" "Extent of the obligation of the State to educate deaf-mutes;" "Compulsory education as applied to mutes;" "Discipline;" "Dual institutions, in which the deaf, dumb, and blind are educated together;" "Best industrial instruction for the deaf and dumb;" "Best order of daily exercises in an institution;" "Hygiene

of Institutions;" "Best recreations for the mutes;" "Monitorial service;" "Congregate dormitories;" "Best mode of procuring information in regard to deaf-mutes after leaving the Institution;" "Best mode of securing statistics of uneducated deaf and dumb;" "Institution registers and records;" "Method of recitation."

This exercise ceased, not because the above were all that could be suggested, but because it was unanimously agreed upon that enough had been proposed to consume the day and a half that could be devoted to their discussion.

CLASSIFICATION OF PUPILS.

By unanimous consent, the above subject was taken up for discussion. Dr. Gillett, who suggested the topic, was the first to give his views. He favored a separation of the sexes at first, and also of the old from the young. He favored a style of architecture that would effect this result. This was the principle adopted in building the new Illinois Institution. He found it a good plan to have all the boys in one class with one teacher and the girls in another, at first, and then, as they advance, to unite the two sexes in different classes. His custom was after each term to modify the classification of the preceding term. When a classification had been once adopted, he did not think it best to adhere too closely to it.

Mr. Noyes thought that the successful training of pupils depended a good deal on a good classification. He followed two general principles: 1. The classification of pupils, following the order of nature. He favored the dormitory system, believing that the influence of the refined and advanced pupil had a wonderfully good influence on the rude and uncultivated. The second principle of classification was that of intelligence, once or twice a year classifying the pupils according to grade of advancement.

Mr. Bangs thought that classes should be arranged according to their ability to perform intellectual labor, without regard to sex. He thought 15 was the proper number for a class.

Mr. Noyes also thought that 15 or 16 was the maximum number that a class should contain.

Miss Rogers said that sometimes she had 20 in a class. She was making a new classification, so that no class would probably contain more than 8 or 10. She did not believe in having a class even as large as 15 in number, when questions are to be asked.

Miss Fuller said that the largest number she had in a class was 10; no class now contains more than eight. Her principle of classification was intelligence.

Dr. Palmer divided his pupils into seven classes, containing from 17 to 22, according to intellectual advancement. He was hampered by being compelled to admit pupils whenever they applied.

The conversation here took the form of a familiar talk on regularity and irregularity of attendance, and the proper length of the school year, which lasted for some time. All the principals seemed to favor a shorter term, with a prompt attendance.

On motion of Mr. Noyes, the four teachers, Messrs. W. L. M. Breg, W. Hubbard, Wm. Brennan, and A. W. Mann, who were present, were made honorary members of the Conference. They accordingly took their places around the table.

Mr. John J. Buchanan, another teacher, was also made an honorary member.

Mr. Noyes offered a resolution, which was adopted, stating

that it is the sense of the Conference that a proper classification is of vital importance to the success of every institution for the education of the deaf and dumb; and that mental ability and intellectual development should be the criterion by which to judge, and that tardiness in attendance is a serious embarrassment to the work of classification.

WEDNESDAY EVENING'S SESSION.

On motion of Dr. Palmer, the topic selected for discussion was

INSTITUTION REGISTERS AND RECORDS.

Dr. Gillett gave a minute account of the set of records kept in the Illinois Institution, in which are recorded the pupils' names, ages, place of birth, cause of deafness, &c., and a large space for recording the students' future careers.

Mr. Noyes thought that two records should be kept; one recording students standing in their classes, and the other, a general record, embracing all points of general information about the students. One should be a yearly record, and the other a permanent one, which should become a part of the archives of the Institution.

Other remarks of a conversational turn followed, after which the subject was dropped and the next subject taken up, which was

MIXED INSTITUTIONS FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB AND BLIND.

Mr. Bangs thought this union a very unnatural one. His experience was that the blind derived no benefit from contact with the deaf and dumb. Besides, it was a great inconvenience. The chapel exercises could not be held at the same time and place. He failed to see any reason why they should be kept together. In a new State like Michigan it might be necessary to keep them in one institution until the State was able to erect separate institutions.

Dr. Palmer coincided in the views of Mr. Bangs.

Mr. Noyes thought the union of these two classes, as far as articulation was concerned, was beneficial. In other ways they were quite a help to each other, as, for instance, in the dormitories, recreation, and in making purchases. He also found that one class commiserated with the other. He advocated, however, that when an institution has attained any size the classes should be separated.

Dr. Gillett had had no practical experience in the union of the deaf and dumb and blind. He said there were no points of resemblance in their methods of instruction, in their sympathies, or in their future. He, therefore, thought that they should be educated in separate institutions. He said there were those who saw no necessity for institutions for the education of the blind. If they have anything in common with another it is with the speaking class, and should be educated with them.

Mr. Bangs also noticed an element of injustice in the co-education of the two classes, in making the deaf and dumb servitors of the blind. In the Michigan Institution, the deaf and dumb make the beds, saw the wood, and do other work for the blind. It had given him more anxiety to take care of the blind boys than it had to manage all the deaf and dumb in the Institution.

Mr. Gillett thought that if a man did his duty to the deaf and dumb he would have no time to take care of the blind, and *vice versa*.

At the close of the discussion of this topic, Dr. Palmer offered a resolution, which was unanimously adopted, that in the opinion of the Conference it was inexpedient to educate the blind with the deaf and dumb.

At this point, 10 o'clock, the Conference adjourned till 9 o'clock Thursday morning.

THURSDAY MORNING'S PROCEEDINGS.

The Conference assembled around the table at 9 o'clock this morning. After devotional exercises by Mr. Noyes, a permanent organization was effected by making its temporary officers permanent, and electing Miss Rogers Vice-President.

On invitation of the Conference, Mr. A. Graham Bell, member of the Philological Society of London, read a very valuable paper on

ARTICULATION FOR DEAF-MUTES.

Mr. Bell said:

Were teachers of the deaf and dumb fully convinced of the practicality of teaching deaf-mutes to articulate clearly and intelligibly, I am sure there is not one who would not gladly give his pupils the opportunity of acquiring the art of speech. It will, therefore, be my aim to-day to give reasons for believing that all intelligent deaf-mutes may be taught to express themselves orally, and in a natural manner; to show cause why such results have not hitherto been obtained; and to place before you what has already been accomplished by means of visible speech. Since the days of Amman, all those who have given attention to the subject have been convinced of the possibility of deaf-mutes acquiring speech from the following facts:

1st. That the actions of speech can be performed without the aid of hearing; and

2d. That the vocal organs of deaf-mutes are in no ways different from those of hearing persons.

Mr. Bell went on to say that the construction of automaton speaking machines by Baron de Kempelen, Sir Charles Wheatstone, and Herr Faber, and the artificial production of vowel sounds by Delmholz, prove conclusively the mechanical nature of speech. If the ingenuity of man can produce from pieces of wood and india-rubber an intelligible, however rude, utterance, surely deaf-mutes may be taught to use the perfect instrument of speech with which they have been endowed. If we can only make the deaf-mute place his organs of articulation *as we do*, theory asserts that he will talk. But here lies the difficulty—who can tell him what to do?

It was then shown that teachers of the deaf and dumb had not themselves known what the correct actions of the vocal organs were, and that they had no suitable means of communicating to their pupils such knowledge as they did possess. Hence the results (in regard to congenital deaf-mutes) have been eminently uncertain and discouraging; and hence we must not attempt to judge articulation by what has been achieved in the past. Teachers have now, for the first time, a scientific system available for the instruction of the deaf and dumb. Wherever visible speech has been presented it has met with enthusiastic supporters, and the results already attained by it point forward to still greater in the future.

That deaf-mutes should be able to modulate the voice seems more astonishing and incredible than that they should be taught to articulate correctly. When we come to consider that all races of men—and that even some animals—express the same emotions by identical inflections of the voice, it is evident that the language of inflections is as natural as that of looks and gestures. The blind do not need their eyes that their emotions may be made visible, nor do the deaf require their ears that their voices may be made expressive. The blind man knits his brows in anger, curls his lip in contempt, or raises his eyebrows in astonishment, although he has never beheld a human face; and, similarly, the deaf-mute has the inclination to vary the pitch and quality of his voice to express his feelings, notwithstanding the absence of hearing.

That deaf-mutes can feel and govern the movements of their own voices by sensation alone is now proved beyond the shadow of a doubt. Two young ladies (one of them a congenital deaf-mute) have succeeded in doing this in an astonishing degree. These pupils are certified by Dr. Clarence J. Blake, Lecturer on Otology in Harvard University, to be totally and absolutely deaf. Experiments conducted by teachers in Boston, Northampton, and Hartford have also been perfectly successful.

It was also asserted that the quality of the voice could be made sweet and pleasing. Of all the pupils in the American Asylum, there were certainly not more than a dozen whose voices could be called harsh. In every case where the experiment was tried the *timbre* was successfully corrected.

RESULTS OF EXPERIMENTS WITH VISIBLE SPEECH.

I trust I have said enough to show the reasonableness of the belief that deaf-mutes may be taught to speak like other people; and I shall now proceed to state how far the desired result has been realized by the employment of visible speech as a medium of instruction.

A description of my father's system has so recently been given in the American Annals of the Deaf and Dumb that I think it unnecessary to offer any further explanation concerning it. In the article alluded to, reference was made at page 8 to private experiments being then undertaken with the system in Boston. A detailed account of these was published in a pamphlet form, and presented to the principals of American institutions for the deaf and dumb. Hence a summary of results will be all that is necessary here.

The objects of the Boston experiments were :

1st. To test how far the mouths and voices of deaf-mutes could be educated by means of visible speech and the allied elocutionary notation; and 2d, to discover experimentally the best mode of teaching the system.

The results may briefly be noted :

1. A congenital deaf-mute not only acquired all the English elements that had been defective after four years' instruction by imitation, but could pronounce foreign sounds at sight of their symbols. This pupil also learned to inflect the voice, sustain it on one level, or vary its *timbre* at will. She is perfectly conscious of every movement in her throat, and can even recognize (in her own voice) certain musical intervals. Before instruction in visible speech, it was difficult for strangers to understand her conversation, and almost impossible for them to follow her reading; now she finds no difficulty in making herself understood, and she can read distinctly and intelligibly from the symbols of the visible speech, *but with extreme slowness*. The faulty habits of speech already formed place great difficulty in the way of the attainment of fluent utterance, but there can be no doubt but these will be surmounted by patient practice.

2. A semi-mute acquired a knowledge of elocutionary principles, and not only learned to modulate the voice, but evidently felt the expressiveness of the inflections. In this instance, also, there was a most decided perception of relative pitch. These are the two pupils certified by Dr. Blake to be totally deaf.

3. Another pupil, who became deaf at 18 months old, but who has a slight sense of hearing in one ear, can now give natural expression to her utterance, and even sing a simple air.

4. The experiments give good ground for the conclusion that visible speech will enable even adult deaf-mutes to articulate intelligibly.

The symbols appeal so directly to the mind that more rapid progress is made by adults than by children in mastering the elements. The most unpromising of the pupils experimented on—unpromising from the fact that he had nearly reached middle age—acquired all the English elements in 12 lessons; and his voice, which was at first extremely disagreeable, became much improved. In other cases, of younger pupils, the exercises produced a perfectly natural quality of voice.

At an exhibition of results given in Boston the company assembled appointed the Hon. George B. Emerson, Hon. J. D. Philbrick, and Professors Monroe and Churchill a committee "to report the perfect success of Mr. Bell's methods." The testimony of this committee will be found in the recent report of the Massachusetts Board of Education.

In the American Asylum for Deaf-Mutes a very interesting experiment was made that deserves special mention here. The teachers of that Institution selected from the various classes 10 pupils possessing no knowledge of speech, for the purpose of seeing what could be done in a limited time by the new system. Three of these pupils were placed under my own care, and the others were distributed among the teachers who were studying visible speech, in order that the results attained might be due rather to the system than to the instruction of any particular individual. Taking the number of English elements as 36, and multiplying this by the number of pupils, we have a total of 360 sounds to be learned.

1. Eighty-six English elements, or 24 per cent., were obtained by imitation.

2. From these sounds 189 others were developed by visible speech, so that 76 per cent. of the English elements were perfected in seven weeks.

3. All the pupils who had disagreeable voices acquired the power of producing natural tones.

4. All could vary the pitch of the voice.

5. Two could produce natural inflections.

6. Although it could scarcely have been expected that these pupils should, within such a short period, acquire such sufficient control over the instrument of speech to articulate sentences correctly, yet, at the exhibition of results given at the Institution, a few sentences were pronounced so as to be perfectly understood by the audience without any prompting.

An account of the results obtained in the Boston Day School for Deaf-Mutes will be found in *The Annals*, vol. xvii, page 6. See also "The Twenty-third Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Schools of the city of Boston," page 45.

For information concerning the introduction of the system into the Clarke Institution, Northampton, Mass., the National College for Deaf-Mutes, Washington, D. C., the American Asylum, Hartford, Conn., and the Jacksonville Institution, Ill., see the published reports of these Institutions.

From what has been accomplished by visible speech there is no assumption in stating that a good articulation can be certainly acquired even by the congenitally deaf, and I would therefore urge that all the pupils in our Institutions should have the opportunity given them of learning to speak. Other reasons suggest themselves—such as the benefit to health from the expansion of the chest, and increased volume of respiration resulting from vocal exercise.

The introduction of the system of visible speech does not necessitate any great increase of effort on the part of the teachers, as it has been found that large classes, numbering as many as 250, may be simultaneously exercised. Nor does the use of the system in any way interfere with existing methods of instruction. It, however, greatly facilitates the acquisition of the important art of lip-reading, where this is studied.

I earnestly hope that the discussion which may follow this paper may lead to a wide range of experiments in the vast fields under your supervision; and also that, before long, the new instrument of instruction in speech, realizing a prominent power hitherto never attained, may be fairly accomplished in every institution in this great country.

At the conclusion of the essay, Mr. Bell, at the request of the Conference, tried some interesting experiments, illustrating his system. A black-board was brought into the room on which he drew diagrams of the position of the palate, lips, and tongue in producing certain sounds. Without any difficulty, and with perfect accuracy, Messrs. John J. Buchanan, aged 23; Wm. H. Brennan, aged 27; and W. L. M. Breg, aged 40, all of whom were born deaf, gave the consonant sounds of "b" and "m" to the great delight of the hearers. Nor was their own edification less, as was evident from their countenances, when they perceived from the looks of their hearers that they had been entirely successful. One of them gave vent to his feelings in a hearty laugh. Mr. Bell then went out of the room while Miss Fuller wrote on the board in the "visible-speech symbols" sentences in different languages and of corrupt and provincial pronunciation of English, all of which he read correctly on his re-entrance.

After somewhat further explaining his system, in response to questions by the Conference, Miss Fuller was called upon to give the result of her experience in the Boston Day School. She said she had used it exclusively only for younger pupils received since last September. With the older pupils she had found it of great service in correcting mispronunciation. She gave an account of her success with a private pupil which she has had since last January, but whose name I am requested to withhold, but Miss Fuller has kindly furnished us a brief account of what a deaf-mute can accomplish. She is now about 20 years of age, and lost her hearing when she was four years old from scarlet fever. The death of two other children of the same disease about the same time, and other circumstances, prevented her mother from devoting any attention to her education for a year. At the end of this time she began her deaf daughter's education, keeping fresh what she had already learned of articulation, and also teaching her to read and write. From this she went on, studying not only the higher English branches, but also learning French and German, both of which she speaks with great fluency. She was given into Miss Fuller's care to correct her voice, which was always keyed at a very high pitch. Although Miss Fuller had her only from January to June, by a careful training with Prof. Bell's system she succeeded in correcting her voice and producing a natural tone. The forenoon session of the Conference was closed by Miss Rogers relating her impressions of European institutions for the deaf and dumb.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON'S SESSION.

The Conference met in the afternoon session at 2 o'clock, to which time it had adjourned. The subject of Mr. Bell's paper was resumed for a few minutes, and the following resolution, offered by Mr. Bangs, adopted :

Resolved, That the Conference has listened to the paper of Mr. A. Graham Bell on "Articulation for Deaf-Mutes," and to his elucidations by illustration on the board, with great interest; that the system of visible speech impresses the members of the Conference as being philosophical, and that it promises great aid in the instruction to the deaf in articulation.

OBLIGATORY INSTRUCTION FOR DEAF-MUTES.

The above topic was first taken up for discussion.

Miss Rogers briefly stated her views, favoring the compelling of students to attend schools for them. She was hampered by students arriving at all times, and by adult mutes applying for admission.

(Continued on page 7.)

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WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 1, 1872.

THE Conference of Principals at Flint, Michigan, was a small gathering, only seven being present, if we include Mr. Bell. It assumed somewhat of an informal and social character, yet those participating in it account it of great value to themselves. The report which we give to our readers we have gleaned mainly from *The Detroit Tribune*, and those perusing it will find it of interest. Mr. Bell's paper deserved a larger audience, as did also the discussions on that and other points. That audience we are trying to enlarge in giving a full report in our columns. We should regret greatly to look upon this gathering as a fair sample of what those of the future are to be in point of numbers, and we will rather lay the meagre attendance to the great heat and general unfitness of the season for travelling.

THERE was a complaint among the deaf-mute teachers who were present that they had no interpreter regularly detailed for their benefit, and as a consequence they lost much of what was said. The same complaint is to be entered against many of these gatherings. These deaf teachers are as eager to learn as any, and, if anything, stand most in need of the instruction and guidance to be obtained from the experience of the heads of institutions. A ready and willing interpreter should, therefore, always be appointed when deaf-mutes are present, and a meeting of this kind should as soon neglect to appoint a secretary or chairman as to fail to provide an interpreter.

WE understand that the subject, "Newspapers for the Deaf and Dumb," was proposed for discussion, and the Conference declined to entertain it. This is peculiarly unfortunate for those situated like ourselves, and blindly grouping in the dark for the best way in journalism to improve and elevate our class. We cannot see why they should refuse us the light we need; and who will deny that their views would guide us greatly? We of THE SILENT WORLD do not shrink from criticism, friendly or otherwise, even when it comes from a source we respect so much as we do a conference of the principals of American institutions for the deaf and dumb, and we should have been grateful even if they had told us out and out that our paper was doing no good—that it was a positive injury to the cause of deaf-mute advancement—provided it was true, for then we should have been satisfied upon a point on which we confess we are still in doubt. And so we regret very much that they did not give their views one way or the other, and we may say here that if any feel inclined to advise us privately of their opinions upon this point, we shall be very thankful if they will write us.

THE lady principals at Flint advocated "tripping the light fantastic toe" as a gymnastic exercise. How human nature will crop out!

DOTING mamas and fond papas take heed; the principals have resolved that you shall have your deaf-mute children educated. Now all that remains to be done is for the State governments to resolve like thereunto.

"OUTSIDE OF POLITICS."

MR. CHAMBERLAIN, in his paper, *The Marblehead Messenger*, thus speaks of the deaf-mutes of his town. From reading it one not acquainted with him would scarcely think Mr. C. had been deaf himself from childhood, he treats us in such a philosophical manner, and from the seeming vantage-ground that belongs to the hearing alone:

"INFLUX OF SILENCE.—For the past week or more, quite a number of deaf-mutes have been stopping in town, enjoying the summer vacations in ways best adapted to their tastes, which, however, strictly considered, do not vary much from the customs of their more favored brethren. They had an out-of-door meeting on Brown's Island, last Sunday, in addition to their regular services, and have since 'done' the Neck, Islands, and Bay to such extent as the obnoxious fog has permitted. The last we knew of them they had projected visits to Salisbury beach and Pigeon cove.

"There are fifteen resident mutes in town, and this number, added to the visitors, makes gesticulation a common thing in our streets and in the homes of the resident mutes. While they require more space in which to do their talking, they do not, as a general thing, make as much noise as the same number of people who can speak; and there is this advantage in their language—a dozen couples can talk at the same time without disturbing those adjacent. Even deafness, when one comes to investigate, is not without its advantages and compensations."

NOT all of our teachers are yet willing to give up quoting Solomon and the old proverbs about "sparing the rod and spoiling the child," for proof of which see the report of the Conference.

"PAY them enough," is the laconic answer of the Conference to the great and despairing cry, "How shall we secure and retain properly-qualified instructors?" And there they have the whole thing in a nutshell.

A CHARACTER in Goldsmith's "Citizen of the World," who evidently has a lively sense of the horror of the condition he refers to, always expresses the wish that he may be struck "blind, deaf and dumb," if what he avers is not true.

MR. WILLIAM S. HAMMOND, a deaf man, aged 50, while walking on the track of the Detroit and Milwaukee Railroad, in Spring Lake, Michigan, on the 18th instant, was struck by a passing train, and received injuries that proved fatal in an hour. He was one of the oldest citizens of the place.

MARRIED.

ON the 30th of July last, near Midway, Rockbridge county, Virginia, by the Rev. William Pinkerton, (Mr. Job Turner, of the Virginia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, interpreting,) MR. LAWRENCE W. SAUNDERS, a teacher in the Mississippi Institution, to MISS VIRGINIA B. FULTZ. The groom and bride are both graduates of the Virginia Institution at Staunton.

OUR SUBSCRIBERS' CORNER.

OUR friend, Mr. Wm. M. French, has turned up again as the publisher of *The Enterprise* newspaper of Medora, Indiana. Mr. French was not, as it has been stated, nominated for recorder of Jackson county, but he was promised the nomination in case some one was not chosen on the first ballot. Some one was chosen. Newspapering at best is a hard road to travel, but that does not prevent us from wishing him success in his new *Enterprise*.

A SUBSCRIBER sends us his "mite," viz, 75 cents for six months' subscription. We protest; it is not a mite; it is only half of a mite, for we cannot call anything a mite that is less than \$1.50. Still we are duly thankful for halves as for wholes, and only hope that others will do as he has done.

WE would respectfully inform a few subscribers that the office of *The Deaf Mute Advance* is in Jacksonville, Illinois, and that we do not publish that paper, and have no copies on hand to send to them. Let them send to Jacksonville when they want that paper.

(Continued from page 5.)

Mr. Noyes said that he was a firm believer in compulsory education. He had watched its workings in New England, Louisiana, and Minnesota, and experience confirmed him in his belief. His views were embodied in a paper already published.

Dr. Gillett favored State laws, compelling the attendance of deaf-mutes upon the State institutions for their education.

Dr. Palmer stated that the matter had been brought before the Ontario government, therefore he would not express his views.

The discussion terminated here by the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That in view of the fact that so many deaf and dumb children in all our States are growing up without either mental or moral culture, it is high time that some system of obligatory education was enacted on the part of the States.

CONGREGATE DORMITORIES.

The next topic was "Congregate Dormitories," upon which Dr. Gillett first expressed his views. He did not like either the congregate or monastic system. He favored putting three or four pupils in a room, except in case of young children. He would put 12 or 16 of these in a room, with a matron in an adjoining room. He thought it demoralizing for 15, 25, or 50 pupils to occupy the same sleeping apartments.

Miss Rogers said that at Northampton never more than two children were put in a room, and that the plan worked remarkably well.

After a few minutes of general conversation on this subject, it was dropped without any resolution.

AMUSEMENTS.

This subject came up next, Mr. Noyes first taking the floor. He desired to have such amusements as would draw out an interest in the pupils. He had used, with good success, Dr. Dio Lewis' system of light gymnastics. As soon as it could be done, he wished to have a gymnasium erected at the Minnesota Institution.

Mr. Bangs said that at the Ohio Institution there were two large rooms devoted to amusements—a feature of the Institution in which he was much interested.

Dr. Palmer thought all proper games that could be played in doors, picture books, a stereopticon, and pantomimes should be provided. At stated times all should be brought together in a social gathering. Ball, cricket, and other games should be encouraged on the play-ground. Moreover, every Institution should have a good gymnasium. On Christmas he would have a Christmas tree, and distribute presents among the pupils. In short, the Institution should be made as much like home as possible.

Mr. Bell favored drill exercises. He believed that in marching mutes could feel the sound of a drum.

Dr. Palmer, on taking up the subject of drill exercises, introduced by Mr. Bell, said that in the Ontario Institution they had two fire companies, properly uniformed and equipped, who drilled with great precision, and presented a fine appearance on holiday parades with their gaily-decorated engines. The commands were given and time marked by signals with a wand.

Mr. Bangs said that a company had been formed in his State Institution.

Dr. Gillett said that his students had derived a great deal of pleasure from a set of *Harpers' Weekly*, which he had purchased for them.

Miss Rogers thought that dancing was a useful and harmless amusement in giving the students a graceful carriage. She would be glad to have her teachers give instruction in it.

Miss Fuller thought that dancing should be taught to deaf mutes. This was one of the few amusements they could enjoy in common with speaking children, and it removed a feel-

ing of constraint and awkwardness for them to be able to participate in it.

TEACHERS AND THEIR PAY.

In accordance with a request from J. Scott Hutton, of Nova Scotia, the question of "The Best Method of Securing and Retaining properly-qualified Instructors" was informally discussed for a short time. "Pay them enough" was the answer given by all, and the topic was dropped without the adoption of a resolution.

THE NEXT MEETING.

Dr. Palmer, Miss Fuller, and Mr. Noyes were appointed a committee to make arrangements for holding another meeting in 1874.

DISCIPLINE.

This topic came up next for discussion, and Mr. Bangs was first invited to give his views. He employed a dozen boys as monitors. Reports of misdemeanors were also received from teachers. All misdemeanors were posted in a register opposite the offender's name, with the name of the person reporting them. Whenever a pupil was called into his office he marked in the register whether he was admonished or punished, and in what way. By pursuing this course he had before him a complete record. He was not prepared to say what punishment was the best. He should be glad to hear opinions expressed as to how far teachers should be entrusted with the punishment of offenders.

Mr. Noyes thought discipline should be, for the most part, intrusted to the superintendent of the Institution. The government of the school-room should be left to the teacher. Severe punishments should not be inflicted on the spur of the moment. Only in rare instances would he resort to corporeal punishment. He would aim at having the judgment of the older pupils sustain him in every instance of punishment. The minor offences he punished by not allowing the offender to attend the monthly sociables, or some such similar deprivation. He thought that no Institution could succeed where good discipline did not prevail.

In response to a question by Mr. Bangs, Dr. Palmer said that it was his custom to have the teachers report all cases of extreme disobedience to him. Like Mr. Noyes, he resorted to the rod only in rare cases.

Mr. Bangs resuming, said he favored Dr. Palmer's view that that the principal should be made responsible for the discipline of the Institution, and should keep well acquainted with what the teachers were doing behind his back.

Mr. Noyes said that students should be made to feel that the principal was their best friend, and that his ear was open to their grievances.

Dr. Gillett did not want it understood that he was the executioner in his Institution. He preferred to have the teachers do their own punishing. He did not think it was right never to let a pupil know that a teacher had done wrong. He agreed with the preceding speakers that punishment should not be inflicted at the time of the offence. There were times when he found the rod necessary; but about the best punishment he could find was a saw and a pile of wood. He found very little insubordination in the school-room. The most insubordination occurred in the industrial department.

Mr. Bangs found the least there.

The discussion here became extremely conversational between the gentleman members of the Conference. Dr. Palmer disciplined pupils sometimes publicly. Mr. Noyes did not, carefully avoiding making the student feel that he was degraded in the eyes of his mates. Dr. Gillett disciplined privately, also. Dr. Palmer treated his children the same as his pupils. Dr. Gillett thought that they could err in having too many

rules. He appealed as much as possible to the innate principle of justice in the student. His three male colleagues expressed assent in this view. Dr. Gillett was not troubled with cases of insubordination of large boys against lady teachers. Dr. Palmer had been troubled with one or two such cases.

Mr. Breg, one of the mute teachers, whose name has been before mentioned, here signified his intention of saying something on the subject. His remarks were interpreted to the reporters by Mr. Bangs. Mr. Breg thought that this was an important subject to teachers. He thought great wisdom was necessary in the teacher. All mild efforts should be exhausted before severe ones were resorted to. But sometimes he found the latter necessary. His remarks, which were *witnessed* with much attention and interest, were very impressive, and were understood in part by those who were not familiar with the sign-language, so descriptive were they. He was warmly applauded as he resumed his seat.

The conversational nature of the Conference was resumed again, the members talking together two and two without much regard for order and in a manner highly perplexing to reporters. The question of punishing girls was incidentally broached, some sensibly and gallantly expressing a repugnance to flogging one of the fair sex. Others, however, had no such feelings, having conquered, as we think, the better feelings of their nature to this extent.

THURSDAY EVENING'S SESSION.

Memorial resolutions on the death of the Rev. Collins Stone, principal of American Asylum, of Hartford, Conn., offered by Mr. Noyes, were adopted. Dr. Gillett, Mr. Bangs, and Mr. Noyes pronounced feeling eulogies upon the deceased.

BEST ORDER OF DAILY EXERCISES.

Discussion on this subject was pronounced in order.

Mr. Noyes said he had two sessions of school a day. As soon as he had larger and more shops he intended to have one session of school, and one of work. He was of the opinion that holding children down to two or three hours' study in the evening was too severe. The pupil should be taught to study with all his mind during study hours.

Dr. Gillett said that ten or twelve years ago he adopted the plan of one session a day.

ERRORS OF THE UNITED STATES CENSUS.

The subject of the best mode of collecting statistics regarding the deaf and dumb came up for a few minutes' consideration.

Mr. Gillett had found the statistics of the United States census wholly unreliable. Out of 269 pupils in the Illinois Institution, the names of 67 were given in the census of 1870.

Mr. Noyes also found the census statistics wholly unreliable. Not only were many names omitted, but those whose names were given were located in wrong towns. As an instance of this he cited Rice county, Minnesota—which came more immediately under his notice—where all the deaf-mutes of the county were located in the town. He proposed at the next session of the Legislature to endeavor to have the school law amended so that it shall be part of the duties of the person who enumerates the school-children to enumerate the deaf, dumb, blind, and insane, with ages and residences.

Mr. Bangs never attached any value to the statistics in the census, being full of errors.

RESOLUTIONS OF THANKS.

Resolutions of thanks to the officers and Board of Trustees of the Michigan Institute, and to representatives of the press, were adopted.

Messrs. Bangs, Noyes, and Palmer were constituted a committee to prepare the minutes of the Conference for publication.

The Conference then adjourned *sine die*, with devotional exercises.

COLLEGE RECORD.

OUR FARM.

THERE are not many who are aware of the valuable acquisition the Institution has obtained in securing, through the liberality of Congress, the estate of the late Amos Kendall. The grounds of the Institution now embrace within a fraction of one hundred acres of as good land as can be found anywhere near Washington. Not quite one-third of this is woodland, and the remainder either cultivated or laid out in lawns and roadways in the immediate vicinity of the Institution. It is advantageously situated in many respects, and these advantages will increase from year to year, so that if it should ever become necessary to sell any portion of the land its enhanced value will yield a handsome return. But the present value of the land to the Institution is every day apparent, and we were brought face to face with the fact the other day in a way that impressed it deeply upon us. Through the politeness of the overseer of the farm, Mr. George Erskine, we were allowed to inspect his accounts and take a look at the whole domain.

It seems that during the year ending June 30, 1872, the whole amount of produce furnished to the Institution, reckoned at current market prices, was \$3,754.42. Of this, \$386.30 had been furnished in strawberries, (2,000 quarts;) \$1,092.20 in milk, (3,162 gallons;) \$785 in meats, and the balance in vegetables and fruits. When the farm came into our possession it had been much neglected, and Mr. Erskine thinks it will go on increasing in productiveness for some time yet, and may, before long, supply all the wants of the Institution in vegetables. The crops this season have been much injured by the protracted droughts, the potato and hay crops especially. The potato vines were killed early in August, and the crop had to be harvested about one-third grown, and corn for fodder sown in its place.

A vineyard of three or four acres in extent is just now the point of special attraction to all the Institution, and its friends and enemies for miles around. It contains all the varieties, from the delicious Concord, Delaware, and Victoria to the pungent Virginia Seedling and thick-skinned Scuppernong. (The reader will see our days of patient munching among the vines are not wholly *fruitless*.) The Concord and Delaware varieties flourish best, but the whole yard is much neglected, and needs quite a force of men by itself to render it productive to a paying degree. It is at present larger than the wants of the Institution demand, and as the whole farm is run only to supply the Institution, it is to be reduced in size, and only those varieties cultivated which will give a good return.

The farm has an abundance of fruit trees, but the dry weather has affected the fruit and rendered it exceedingly wormy, so that it is dropping off very fast, and no great crop is expected. But the pigs flourish well, and lovers of pork will be pleased to know that there are two litters putting on layers of corn meal for their benefit during the coming winter.

From a letter received from President Gallaudet, we learn that the party have arrived safely at Geneva, Switzerland, where they propose to remain during the greater part of their stay in Europe. Their journey was, on the whole, very pleasant, although they did not escape some of the discomforts of the trip. For instance, they were compelled to pass the night on the deck of the small steamer that conveyed them across the English Channel, the cabin being crowded to suffocation. On the 9th ult. President G. and Mr. Draper were to start on a jaunt of three weeks through Northern Italy and the Tyrol, returning through Bavaria and by the Swiss lakes.

Mr. Draper, writing to Mr. Parkinson, says that after this he is to spend five days in Paris, and starts for home on the 10th inst. The party encountered Mr. Gammage, a teacher in the New York Institution, in London.

IN twenty-six days you will have to come back to school, friends.

CHAMBERS, formerly of '73, has been appointed a clerk to the National Republican Committee.

PROFESSOR PORTER and Mr. Draper expect to sail from Liverpool by the Algeria on September 10th.

THE puddle on L street has been renewed, and breeds swarms of mosquitoes for the torture of us poor mortals.

PROFESSOR SPENCER left for Vermont on Monday, the 25th inst., where he intends to "eat oats and pitch honey."

NEW board walks are being put down. All ye of unsteady steps rejoice, for they are twice as wide as the old ones.

MR. W. W. ANGUS, a teacher in the Indiana Institution, was given the degree of Master of Arts at our last commencement.

THE terrace near the pump has been turfed, and the grass plat laid out, and the appearance of things thereabout is vastly improved.

THE annual scrubbing, painting, and oiling of floors is now at its height, and we have spoiled several suits of clothes in running afoul of freshly-painted doors, and sitting down on window sills and door steps similarly treated.

THE College boys may be interested to learn that the Jefferson Base-Ball Club has disbanded. The Chesapeake, which we thrashed so the last time we played, has secured many of the Jefferson nine, and is now a pretty strong team, and has a good prospect of winning the Junior championship of the District. They may be able to make their threat good of serving us in the fall as we served them last.

JACKO, Mrs. Gallaudet's parrot, who since his mistress' departure has been an inmate of the girls' sitting-room, one day recently, not liking the invasion of his dominions by the painters, took to the trees, and for some time resisted all persuasions to return, fluttering about from tree to tree in a very coquettish manner, and compelling little Carter to ascend and descend trees till our patience was almost exhausted, and Carter's shins (proverbially tender in his race) pretty completely barked. Then the willful bird stepped on to the stick held for him, and folding his wings, coolly shouted, "Here we all are!"—at least we thought so, but we won't swear to it, as we can not hear.

INSTITUTION NEWS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Two lady principals were present at Flint, and constituted a third of the Conference.

THE New York Institution consumes in one year over 100,000 pounds of meat and nearly 600 barrels of flour.

MR. THOMAS J. WILLIAMS, a teacher in the Virginia Institution, was married on Tuesday, the 6th of August last.

OUT of 269 pupils in the Illinois Institution only 67 were given in the census for 1870. O Accuracy! thou art the jewel there.

THE Illinois Institution has the longest vacation of any deaf-mute school, sixteen weeks, and the Mystic, (Conn.) school, the shortest, four weeks.

THE new building of the Maryland Institution, at Frederick, is expected to be finished by the 1st of October next, at which time the term commences.

THE terms of seven schools commence on the first Wednesday in September, viz: New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Wisconsin, Georgia, Institution for Improved Instruction, New York, and Halifax. Three others, Virginia, West Virginia, and Nebraska, begin on the first Monday or Tuesday of September. The term of the California Institution began on the third Wednesday in August. Eight assemble on the second Wednesday of the month: American Asylum, Ohio, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Texas, West Virginia, and Nebraska. Tennessee commences school on the 15th. Only four begin their terms on the third Wednesday, viz: Iowa, Northampton, Missouri, (Fulton,) and Indiana. The Washington Institution is the only one that begins on the fourth and last Wednesday. Kentucky and Alabama begin on the 1st of October, and Arkansas, Illinois, and Louisiana on the first Wednesday in October. South Carolina is unique in having its vacation in the winter, from November 1 to January 1.

MICHIGAN.

MRS. EMMA DE MOTT, formerly Miss Petrie, a graduate of the New York Institution, and a former teacher of the Michigan Institution, has just become a happy mother.

On the 7th of August, Mr. Bangs' son, about two years and nine months old, died after an illness of three days. The funeral services took place in front of the building, and were conducted by Rev. Mr. Bacon, pastor of the Congregational church, and formerly of New Haven, Conn. To Mr. and Mrs. Bangs the sympathies of their friends are extended in this hour of gloom and sorrow.

That the Conference of Principals, though small in number, was an interesting one, is a true saying. Those who attended it have testified to the great benefits they derived from it. Our acquaintance with Mr. Bell has led us to admire him, for we find that he is sacrificing his fortune and health in the field of difficult labor in which he is engaged. We were struck with the rapidity with which he is learning the sign language.

Had it not been for the presence of Misses Rogers and Fuller, the Conference might not have been as interesting as it was. Their remarks were listened to with much attention and interest. Their practical good sense made a good impression on those who became acquainted with them.

It is a fact worthy of being noted that Dr. Palmer was so pleased with what he saw in our cabinet-shop that he expressed his decision to send his boss here to observe our plan of teaching the trade.

MR. A. W. Mann and Miss Ella Smith have just been joined in the holy bonds of matrimony. The lady became deaf at the age of three years, and has never heard a human voice since that time. Her mother worked hard in teaching her to speak. She can now read the motion of the lips readily, and has preserved her articulation so perfectly as to be able to converse with almost any one without exciting any suspicion of her deafness.

On Tuesday, the 20th, Mr. Bangs and his family left for Clinton, New York, to spend two weeks with their friends. W. L. M. B.

GEORGIA.

We have received the fifteenth annual report of this Institution, and from it we glean the following particulars:

A young, hearing man, Mr. Frank Moore, who for some time has been in this Institution acquiring a knowledge of signs, under a special act of the Legislature, and with the view of becoming a teacher when the number of pupils reached 60, has been appointed as such, there having been 61 pupils in attendance during the past year.

MR. Connor calls attention to the following facts: California, with a population of 560,285, has in her Institution, founded only nine years ago, 64 pupils; Minnesota, with a population of 435,511, has in her Institution, founded only nine years ago, 60 pupils; Kansas, with a population of 362,872, has in her Institution, founded eleven years ago, 47 pupils; Arkansas, with a population of 483,179, has in her Institution, opened in 1867, 47 pupils; Maryland, with a population of 780,894, has in her Institution, opened in 1868, 90 pupils; West Virginia, with a population of 442,475, has in her Institution, founded in 1870, 49 pupils; Georgia, with a population of 1,200,609, has in her Institution, founded twenty-five years ago, only 61 pupils. He then asks, "Why this difference?" and goes on to say, "The answer is easily given. In most of these States, methods are adopted by which information in regard to the schools is disseminated throughout the States. No such steps have been resorted to in Georgia if we except, perhaps, a short advertisement inserted a few times in two or three prominent papers, and a few circular letters distributed to the ordinaries of counties. Taking the census of 1870 as a basis, which experience tells us falls below the mark, we have 16,205 deaf-mutes in the United States—a ratio of one in 2,300 inhabitants. Apply this ratio to Georgia, and we have 522 deaf-mutes of all ages in the State, two-thirds at least of school-age, and of these we should have in school 250." He suggests that he be authorized to canvass the State with a class of pupils, giving exhibitions in the principal towns and villages, or that an agent be sent over the State to induce pupils to attend school. He says the Institution is under great obligations to the itinerant ministry of the Methodist church, who, more than any one class of persons, have shown interest in the school, and aided in finding the deaf and dumb and sending them to the Institution.

It is urged that the present course of six years be extended to ten in the case of those who possess the ability and disposition to pursue the additional course, as in the present term little more can be done than lay the foundation for an education.

MR. Connor holds that no Institution can well have less than seven grades of pupils, and each of these grades should have a teacher exclusively to itself.

He complains that the Institution has "neither a system of drainage nor facilities for bathing. No means of extinguishing fire, no means of lighting the building, except by candles—of course kerosene is out of the question. Four thousand dollars will introduce pure water from one of our springs, ample for all domestic purposes, and of sufficient force, with hose attached, to throw it over the entire building. The boys can be trained to use the hose, and in case of fire would form an effective fire company. Should the building catch fire at present, it must be entirely consumed, and if at night when the inmates are wrapped in slumber, many of them might be consumed with it, as from their infirmity no alarm from the outside could awaken them." All of which is but a repetition of the warning of THE SILENT WORLD of November last.

THE FORTNIGHT.

HOME.

ARRANGEMENTS are in progress at Louisville, Ky., for a grand industrial exhibition, to be held during the month of September. Southern manufacturers will contribute largely, and the exhibition will undoubtedly be large and creditable.—An iron bridge at New Castle, Pa., across the Chenango river, fell on the 11th ult., during a heavy thunder-storm. One man, who had sought shelter under it, was killed.—The discovery of a vein of coal near Santa Rosa, Cal., is announced, which is said to possess the qualities of the best bituminous coal of England. It cokes well, and produces an intense heat when burned.—There is a rumor in New York that a retired sea captain, well known in the maritime circles of that city, is about undertaking a voyage across the ocean in a craft smaller than the City of Ragusa. The project is considered extremely foolhardy.—Contracts will soon be let in Pike county, Ill., for fifty-five miles of levee, forty-one feet at the base, and five feet at the top. It is expected by this work to reclaim two hundred thousand acres of the best land in the State.—There is a New York firm who are to-day engaged in the somewhat remarkable, not to say questionable, business of manufacturing idols for the Hindoo market. Anything to turn an "honest" penny.—The Smiths had a dinner at Pittsburg a while ago. The first toast was "Pocahontas—Heaven bless her for saving the Smiths to this country."—Black bears are quite numerous in the Santee (S. C.) swamps.—About eighteen hundred pieces of baggage are mangled at the Saratoga depot daily.—The last wise bird is a Kentucky hen that shakes mulberry trees for the benefit of her chickens.—A Cincinnati clergyman speaks of Sunday camp-meeting trains as the engineering of the devil.—Seven thousand New Yorkers went to Coney Island, 23,000 to Hoboken, and between 60,000 and 70,000 to Central Park on Sunday, two weeks ago.—The water in the Susquehanna river is so low that boys wade across it at any point.—Rich silver mines have been discovered in Lower California, two hundred miles south of the American mine.—At Lansing, Michigan, a few nights ago, Dan Rice called for some one to ride his mule around the ring. A big youth volunteered and succeeded. Dan got mad, struck the boy, the show broke up in a row, and the next morning Dan was fined fifteen dollars for assault.—A rather singular group was observed recently at Ballston, N. Y., riding in one vehicle in the streets. It comprised a physician, a coroner, an undertaker, and a marble-cutter.—Dispatches from Dakota say that the track-laying on the Northern Pacific railroad is proceeding at the rate of three miles per day, and that the trains will reach the Missouri river in October. The line is now in course of location along the Yellowstone, in Montana. There is no opposition from the Indians on any part of the route.—A convention of farmers was held at Petersburg, Va., two weeks ago. It was attended by a large number of representatives from various parts of the State and of North Carolina.—A horse and wagon, together with the driver, fell over a seventy-five foot cliff in Chattanooga, Tenn., the other day, killing the horse instantly. The driver escaped by leaping from the wagon.—A company has been incorporated by the Maryland Legislature to construct a ship canal from the Chesapeake bay to the Delaware river. This will greatly shorten transportation from Baltimore to the North and East.—There is another railroad to be built to the Pacific coast, several degrees south of the present route. The subscriptions to the stock of the road at San Francisco at the present time aggregate \$1,000,000.—The storm of the 15th and 16th ult. damaged to a considerable extent several of the streets of Brooklyn, N. Y. The lower portions of the city were flooded, cellars were filled with water, and the inhabitants in some localities were forced to vacate the first floor of their houses and get up stairs.—Forepaugh has met with an accident to his menagerie from an untamed beast. It was a rhinoceros, which, despite the efforts of twenty men, broke loose, performed hari-kari on several men, broke legs and arms right and left, and transformed tents, cages, seats, and curiosities into a mass of ruins.—The grasshoppers have become so numerous in Dakota as to darken the air and obstruct travel on the roads.—A large black spider in a grist mill at Manchester, N. H., lately caught a small mouse and raised it about two inches from the floor. The mouse was alive when found, but unable to extricate itself from the silken network which the spider had woven around its body.—Certain temperance tracts were lately placed in the hands of the convicts at the State prison in Auburn, N. Y., which it was hoped would have a good influence upon their minds. Soon afterwards a number of them were discovered in an intoxicated condition. It was found that they had made use of the analysis given in the tracts to show of what deleterious things liquors were compounded, and produced a kind of whiskey which "fetched" them. How they obtained the materials is a mystery.—Two cars were smashed on the Western Maryland railroad two weeks ago. Fourteen passengers were more or less injured.—A mad bull rushed through Brooklyn, N. Y., the other day, and seriously injured a man and a boy. One of the balls fired at the animal struck E. D. Chappel, superintendent of the Roosevelt ferry, and killed him.—The Continental Sugar Refinery, at South Boston, Mass., was destroyed by fire two weeks ago, involving a loss of \$450,000.—A collision between two trains took place on the Mobile and Ohio railroad two weeks ago, by which

three negroes were killed and five wounded. The cars were telescoped into each other. The smoking car passed directly over the heads of the passengers in the next car, so that they were obliged to crawl out through a hole cut in the floor.—There was an unprecedented rain-storm two weeks ago; the sun appeared only for a few hours during the week. The storm was very heavy in New York, and railroad bridges were rendered unsafe by the flood. In Boston and suburbs the damage to property and life was unusual. Trees were uprooted, vessels struck, houses unroofed, chimneys thrown down, buildings shattered or fired, telegraph wires melted, many persons struck down, and not a few lives were sacrificed.—In addition to the continued heat of the season, New York has another cause of fear for the sanitary condition of its great population. Several vessels have recently arrived in that port from foreign countries with the yellow fever. On board of one ship seven men died of the contagion during the voyage. A singular cause of disease has recently been announced in that city, from the accumulation and corruption of successive coats of paste, applied by bill-posters on all the waste boards, buildings, and stones of the city. Hundreds of men and boys are daily occupied in this business, using hogsheads of this liquid poison. This becomes putrescent and malignant. Dogs and cats have been experimented on with it, and it has proved fatal to them.—The Texas Pacific railroad is to be 1,515 miles in length. For 250 miles the road is to be an air-line, and in a stretch of 815 miles there will be but six bridges.—When the Sound steamer Lewanhaka, with 520 passengers, was opposite West Farm, on the 16th ult., a crash was heard and steam began to pour from the engine-room. The terrified passengers seized the life-preservers, and many were only prevented from jumping into the water by the captain. One man in his bewilderment detached a valuable gold watch from its chain and threw it into the water. The belting by which the piston-rod was attached to the walking-beam had given way, and the piston-rod had fallen with great force upon the cylinder, crushing it badly and letting the steam escape. The engineer, by the timely precaution of opening the valves, prevented a terrible disaster.—The launch of the pioneer steamship Pennsylvania, of the new Philadelphia and Liverpool line, was accomplished successfully at Cramp's shipyard, on the Delaware, on the 16th ult. This new line is to consist of four first-class iron screw steamships, all on the same model, and the three which are to follow the Pennsylvania will be named the Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. These steamers are designed for eight hundred steerage passengers, and contain twenty-four choice state-rooms for first-class passengers; this is in addition to an immense freighting capacity.—The August meteors were obscured in New England by cloudy skies, but an unusually brilliant shower was observed at Washington, one observer noting eighty-six in an hour.—The Court of Impeachment, sitting at Saratoga, N. Y., has pronounced Judge Barnard guilty of violation of his oath of office, of being unmindful of his duties, and of malicious and corrupt conduct in office, and has declared him forever disqualified for any office or place of trust.

POLITICAL.

POLITICAL excitement is running high throughout the country. The Democrats claim that the Republicans carried North Carolina by fraudulent votes, and the Republicans charge that the Ku-klux prevented hundreds of their party from voting at the election.—The Democrats have succeeded in North Carolina in electing five of the eight Congressmen, and have a majority in the Legislature, which gives them a United States Senator, and the Republicans have elected their Governor by 1,000 majority and gained one member of Congress.—Dr. Francis Lieber has given his opinion of Horace Greeley; he thinks he would make a far worse President than Buchanan.—Those Democrats who are dissatisfied with the nomination of Greeley by the Baltimore Convention are going to have a convention at Louisville, Ky.—General Butler has concluded not to permit his name to be used in the canvass for Governor of Massachusetts in any manner to the detriment of the Republican cause.—The straight Democrats of Georgia called a State convention at Atlanta on the 20th ult. They are determined to make a sharp fight against Greeleyism.—Wendell Phillips has written a letter to the colored folks, advising them to vote for Grant.—The *New York World* is distrustful of Greeley's financial policy. It has no faith in it, and never had.—Judge Kelley, a Republican member of Congress from Pennsylvania, is said to be on the fence.—John Brown, son of the abolition martyr, is for Grant.—Ex-Senator Hendricks and Cassius M. Clay addressed an immense audience at Anderson, Ind., on the 19th ult., in support of Greeley and Brown. Twenty thousand attended, and the meeting was very enthusiastic.—A Nashville dispatch says that Andrew Johnson made a speech to about 50,000 people in favor of Greeley at the exposition building in that city on the 17th ult.—There was a grand out-pouring of Democrats and Liberal Republicans to see Horace Greeley at Augusta, Me., on the 15th ult. About six thousand people came to see him. A special train of twenty-one cars brought about two thousand people from Bangor and other places on the Maine Central road.—Secretary Boutwell has been speaking in New England, and Secretary Robeson also.—Secretary Boutwell and General Butler made stirring speeches to an enthusiastic audience at Lowell, Mass.—Judge Bingham, of Ohio, has been on a speaking tour in Maine, for Grant.